

ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
July 29, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Joe Devish, Gloria Ashford, Charlene Clark, David A. Bowman, David S. Bowman, David Jacobsen, Fred Tricarico, Philip Parker, Geoffrey Newman, Tom Phillips, Don Kopczynski and Secretary/Chief Electrical Inspector Ronald Fuller.

MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Vice Chairman Mike Hendrix, Lea Gaskill, and Jim Simmons.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Item 1 Introduce new Electrical Board members

Chairman Devish began the meeting by introducing the two new board members; Tom Phillips will be filling the Local Jurisdiction position as the Building Official for the City of SeaTac and Don Kopczynski from Avista Utilities is filling the Electrical Utility position.

Item 2 Department Update

Patrick Woods mentioned that there was not any new information to share regarding the administrative overhead cost. Patrick also expressed concerns about the sign industry and the requirement that only certified electricians can do routine maintenance on a sign including replacing a light bulb. Patrick asked the board to review the requirements for replacing light bulbs and put forth a recommendation for the department to either modify or continue with this requirement.

Item 3 Board of Boiler Rules and Electrical Board joint meeting

See the minutes for the joint meeting.

Item 4 Approve Minutes

The April 29, 2004, meeting minutes were approved as written.

Item 5 Presentation of Final Orders

Shelley Mortinson, Assistant Attorney General presented a Final Order regarding the appeal heard at the April 29, 2004, meeting for Cavalier Corporation, Warren Riddle and Jason Bering. The board received an objection to the proposed final order from Cavalier Corporation, Warren Riddle and Jason Bering; however no action was required on this because it was not submitted within the appeal requirements. The final order was signed by Chairman Devish and the appeal requirements will be included when the order is sent to the appellants.

Item 6 Washington State Ground Water Association

William Neal, president and Craig Gresham, secretary of the Washington State Ground Water Association (WSGWA) presented the board with a document describing their industry and some of the challenges they face. They are working on legislation that would create a program to accommodate

electrical, plumbing and well operator licensing requirements. The board, the department and the association agreed that they would continue to work together.

Item 7 WAC 296-46B proposed rule changes

Ron Fuller informed the board that the WAC rule process will be getting under way again for the upcoming year. There will be another technical advisory committee (TAC) formed which will include about 27 people plus an alternate for each. The members will be made up of various assorted people from the industry. The department will begin accepting rule change proposals in September. Ron referred to the August 2004, Special Edition of the Electrical Currents for more information.

Ron presented proposed emergency rule language for WAC 296-46B-900 and WAC 296-46B-970. The emergency rules fix very valid concerns from both the continuing education provider and sign industries. The final draft of instructor requirements for continuing education were inadvertently omitted from the Code Revisers final draft of the WAC that took effect on June 30, 2004. The proposed language will allow any certified administrator, master electrician or electrician to qualify as an instructor, not just a certified general administrator, master electrician or electrician. The sign issue was identified by a citation that had recently been issued to a sign contractor for failing to purchase a permit. The sign contractor was changing ballast in an electrical sign and the inspector read the rule which required an electrical permit for every type of maintenance work; including changing ballast, sockets, plastic face, and hinges on the door. Ron stated that was obviously not the intent and it had not been the past practice of the department. There was a meeting called by the sign industry Yakima on July 13, 2004, where a sub-committee was formed to work with the department to resolve the issue. The proposed language will not require a permit for like-in-kind replacement of components of an electric sign, outline lighting, and skeleton neon tubing if work is done by an appropriate electrical contractor and when the sign, outline lighting or neon tubing electrical system are not modified. Bill Montero, president of the Washington Sign Council and David Servine with the International Sign Association spoke to the board stating their support of the emergency rule. Mr. Servine expressed some concerns about the current language of the WAC rule as it pertains to the scope of work for sign maintenance and Ron stated that the department would work with the group during the normal rule process to try to address the issue. A motion was passed to accept the proposed emergency rule language for WAC 296-46B-900 and WAC 296-46B-970.

Ron also presented proposed language that would formally adopt the changes mentioned above in the emergency rule proposal because emergency rules are only good for 180 days. There is also proposed language to: create a provisional electrical work permit label, change the penalty for homeowners that fail to obtain an electrical work permit and incorporate the independent power producer policy previously approved by the board. The provisional electrical work permit label will cost \$200 per book of 20. They can be used by all electrical contractors and should be very beneficial for the jobs were the contractor does not know what work is going to be needed until they get on the jobsite and realize they need a permit. They can post a provisional and then will have 2 days to purchase the regular permit. The department has heard for years that electrical contractors felt it was unfair that homeowners get a small monetary penalty for failing to purchase permits compared to the penalty assessed to a licensed contractor so this change would make the penalty the same for anyone who is caught doing electrical work without a permit. Motion passed to accept the proposals with the one exception of the striked language in paragraph (8); which reads “neon tubings or skeleton tubings in”.

Item 8 Secretary Report

Revenue Status

The Electrical Fund balance through May 2004 was \$3,834,835. See the Overview sheet on the second page of this report.

Customer Service

During this past quarter, contractors used the Internet Purchasing of Electrical Permits (IPEP) system to purchase 15,733 permits. The last quarterly average of all permit purchases using IPEP is 34%

During this past quarter, contractors used the Electrical Inspection Request Service (EIRS) to request 19,352 inspections. The quarterly average of all inspection requests done via EIRS is 2% from last quarter to 28%.

The SAFES (Strategic Action for Electrical Safety) project is still continuing to be very productive. On the third page of this report you will find their results for targeted compliance issues through June 2004.

Rule Revisions

WAC 296-46B changes became effective June 30, 2004.

Testing Lab Report

No new testing labs have been approved.

Performance Measures April 2004 to June 2004

<u>Electrical Scorecard from April 2004 to June 2004</u>	
Goal (Target)	<u>State Totals</u>
1. Citations/Inspector/Month (1.5)	3.8
2. % Targeted Citations/Total Citations (45%)	47.3%
3. # of Individual Corrections/Contractor Corrections (<7.8)	4.1
4. % Stops <24 hours (89%)	86.6%
5. % Finals A/C of Finals Eligible (15%)	12%
6. # of Stops/Inspector Day (workload indicator only)	10.9

Electrical Licensing – The licensing staff continues to stay current on their workload and is focusing on the improvement of customer satisfaction.

Electrical Plan Review – Plan review is still struggling with the workload but the backlog is improving.

Ron also reported that the SAFES team was doing very well. During the first two months of the program they had written over 750 citations and made over 100 referrals to other divisions, such as industrial insurance for companies that have employees but are not paying worker compensation premiums. The team will continue working through the end of September or possibly a little longer.

The electrical inspectors have even increased the number of citation they are writing which shows a renewed commitment to compliance. The department is going to begin some outreach efforts to target property owners doing their own electrical work because the research found that four times more corrections are written to property owners (both residential and commercial) than to electrical contractors.

Item 9 Certification Quarterly Report

Ron did not have the report to provide at this time but informed the board that he was working with LaserGrade to get a very detailed report to assist the department with improving the exams.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.